

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A television program signal recording and playback apparatus for recording and playing back a television program signal onto and from an information recording medium, comprising:

sound absence period detection means for detecting a sound absence period of an audio signal included in the television program signal;

audio mode detection means for detecting an audio mode of the audio signal of the television program signal;

scene changing point detection means for detecting a scene changing point of a video signal included in the television program signal;

scene changing point distance measurement means for measuring the distance between scene changing points successively detected by said scene changing point detection means;

commercial message detection means for using at least one of the sound absence period, the audio mode and the distance between scene changing points as a parameter to detect a commercial message included in the television program signal;

commercial message detection control means for controlling said commercial message detection means;

sound absence period detection control means for controlling said sound absence period detection means; and

initialization means for initializing the parameter or parameters, wherein said commercial message detection control means limits the processing of said commercial

message detection means when the television program signal includes no commercial message.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A [[broadcast]] television program signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said [[CM]] commercial message detection control means limits the processing of said [[CM]] commercial message detection means when the television [[broadcast]] program signal has a low signal level.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A [[broadcast]] television program signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said [[CM]] commercial message detection control means controls said [[CM]] commercial message detection means to start [[its]] processing before recording of the television [[broadcast]] program signal is started.

Claim 5 (Original): A [[broadcast]] television program signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sound absence period detection control means limits the processing of said sound absence period detection means at a predetermined point of time.

Claim 6 (Original): A [[broadcast]] television program signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said initialization means initializes the parameter or parameters when discontinuity occurs with the television [[broadcast]] program signal.

Claim 7 (Original): A television program signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said initialization means restores the initialized parameter or parameters when the television program signal recovers after discontinuity occurs with the television program signal.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A television program signal recording and playback method for a television program signal recording and playback apparatus for recording and playing back a television program signal onto and from an information recording medium, comprising:

a sound absence period detection step of detecting a sound absence period of an audio signal included in the television program signal;

an audio mode detection step of detecting an audio mode of the audio signal of the television program signal;

a scene changing point detection step of detecting a scene changing point of a video signal included in the television program signal;

a scene changing point distance measurement step of measuring the distance between scene changing points successively detected by the processing in the scene changing point detection step;

a commercial message detection step of using at least one of the sound absence period, the audio mode and the distance between scene changing points as a parameter to detect a commercial message included in the television program signal;

a commercial message detection control step of controlling the processing of the commercial message detection step;

a sound absence period detection control step of controlling the processing of the sound absence period detection step; and

an initialization step of initializing the parameter or parameters, wherein said commercial message detection control means limits the processing of said commercial message detection means when the television program signal includes no commercial message.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A recording medium on which a computer-readable program for controlling a [[broadcast]] television program signal recording and playback apparatus for recording and playing back a television [[broadcast]] program signal onto and from an information recording medium is recorded, when the program is executed by a processor, the program performs a process including steps comprising the program comprising:

a sound absence period detection step of detecting a sound absence period of an audio signal included in the television [[broadcast]] program signal;

an audio mode detection step of detecting an audio mode of the audio signal of the television [[broadcast]] program signal;

a scene changing point detection step of detecting a scene changing point of a video signal included in the television [[broadcast]] program signal;

a scene changing point distance measurement step of measuring the distance between scene changing points successively detected by the processing in the scene changing point detection step;

a [[CM]] commercial message detection step of using at least one of the sound absence period, the audio mode and the distance between scene changing points as a

parameter to detect a [[CM]] commercial message included in the television [[broadcast]]  
program signal;

a [[CM]] commercial message detection control step of controlling the processing of  
the [[CM]] commercial message detection step;

a sound absence period detection control step of controlling the processing of the  
sound absence period detection step; and

an initialization step of initializing the parameter or parameters, wherein said  
commercial message detection control means limits the processing of said commercial  
message detection means when the television program signal includes no commercial  
message.

Claim 10 (New): A television program signal recording and playback apparatus for  
recording and playing back a television program signal onto and from an information  
recording medium, comprising:

a sound absence period detection device configured to detect a sound absence period  
of an audio signal included in the television program signal;

an audio mode detection device configured to detect an audio mode of the audio  
signal of the television program signal;

a scene changing point detection device configured to detect a scene changing point  
of a video signal included in the television program signal;

a scene changing point distance measurement device configured to measure the  
distance between scene changing points successively detected by said scene changing point  
detection device;

a commercial message detection device configured to use at least one of the sound absence period, the audio mode and the distance between scene changing points as a parameter to detect a commercial message included in the television program signal;

a commercial message detection control device configured to control the commercial message detection device;

a sound absence period detection control device configured to control the sound absence period detection device; and

an initialization device configured to initialize the parameter or parameters, wherein said commercial message detection control device limits the processing of said commercial message detection device when the television program signal includes no commercial message.